



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yoshiya TOMATSU

Group Art Unit: 2852

Application No.: 10/799,585

Examiner: Q. GRAINGER

Filed: March 15, 2004

Docket No.: 119090

For: THERMAL FIXING DEVICE AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS WITH A
THERMAL FIXING DEVICE THAT INCLUDES A FIXING MEMBER, A FIRST
PRESSING MEMBER AND A SECOND PRESSING MEMBER (AS AMENDED)

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the May 19, 2006 Office Action and the October 19, 2006 personal interview, the shortened statutory period for reply extended by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-7, 21, 26 and 27 are pending.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiner Grainger to Applicant's representative during the October 19, 2006 personal interview. The personal interview is summarized below and thus constitutes Applicant's record of the interview.

Claims 1-7, 21, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over JP 10-171283 (JP '283) in view of Kellie et al. (Kellie), U.S. Patent No. 6,954,607. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

JP '283 and Kellie fail to disclose or suggest a thermal fixing device with a fixing roller and a first pressing member that apply to a developer on the fixation medium to be

pressed by the first pressing member a temperature not lower than a glass transition point of the developer, as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claims 21, 26 and 27.

As admitted on page 2 of the Office Action, JP '283 fails to disclose the glass transition point of the independent claims. Kellie fails to overcome the deficiencies of JP '283.

Kellie discloses a first nip area 32 formed by a pair of rollers 12, 16 and a second nip area 42 formed by a pair of rollers 14, 16. As illustrated in Fig. 2, the second nip area 42 is at a position downstream in a conveyance direction relative to the first nip area 32. As stated in Kellie, starting on col. 10, line 9, the rollers 14, 16 heat the toner particles to a temperature above the glass transition temperature and the second nip area 42 is at a temperature higher than the nip area 32.

Kellie fails to provide any disclosure with regard to using a temperature not lower than a glass transition point at the first nip area 32. Kellie only discloses using a temperature not lower than a glass transition point at the second nip area 42. However, the second nip area 42 is located downstream with respect to the first nip area 32. Furthermore, Kellie states that the temperature in the first nip area 32 is less than the temperature in the second nip area 42. Accordingly, the temperature in the first nip area 32 is less than a glass transition temperature.

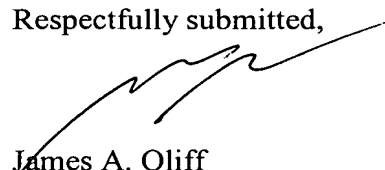
As discussed during the personal interview, Kellie discloses a temperature range for the rollers 12, 16 as being between 100° C and 150° C (col. 9, lines 28-31) and a temperature range for the rollers 14, 16 as being between 130° C and 220° C (col. 10, lines 28-30). However, even with the overlapping temperature ranges, Kellie fails to provide any disclosure with regard to using a temperature not lower than a glass transition point for the rollers 12, 16. Furthermore, Kellie states that the rollers 12, 16 are prefusing rollers (col. 9, lines 24-26) and that the rollers 14, 16 are fusing rollers (col. 10, lines 28-30).

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:SMS/sxb

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: October 19, 2006

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